UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP **EMG**

28th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group Technical Segment, 13th October 2022 (15:00 -17:00 CEST) Online	**EMG**SOM.28_4d Distribution: EMG Members

Proposal

Empowering countries and stakeholders for mainstreaming and implementing sustainable consumption and production, leveraging on the assets and tools of the UN system and its coherent response

In December 2021, the UN General Assembly in the Resolution "*Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21*" A/RES/76/202[1], extended the mandate of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) to 2030, and encouraged its implementation to make the fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume goods and services. Following this decision, Member States recognized in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 High Level Political Forum, the importance of the extension of the mandate of the 10YFP and the development of a new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production.[2]

The vision of the new Global Strategy is to "*bring us on track to 2030 through Sustainable Consumption and Production and deliver on global sustainability ambitions, leaving no one behind*". It has been developed through a broad multi-stakeholder consultations, with the participation of over 200 key partners of the One Planet Network – including UN organizations, the 10YFP Board, the One Planet Network programme leads, UN agencies, Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (UNFCCC, CBD, BRS), National Focal Points, and Secretariats of other sister initiatives (e.g. IRP, PAGE, GO4SDGs, UNEP FI).

One of the pillars of the Strategy to: "Empower countries, in particular developing countries, and stakeholders for mainstreaming and implementing sustainable consumption and production, leveraging the UN Development System." This builds up on *Resolution 11 of UNEA 5.2 "Enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production*", requesting that UNEP together with other United Nations entities, including the International Resource Panel, development partners and relevant international multi-stakeholder networks, facilitate collaboration among Member States and members of specialized agencies in research, capacity-building, knowledge management and the sharing

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[1] A/RES/76/202, Page 4/5, Paragraph 9
[2] E/HLS/2022/1

of best practices for the promotion of innovative pathways for sustainable consumption and production, including the circular economy.[3]

The EMG members play a significant role to support countries to design, implement and mainstream sustainable consumption and production policies, practices and approaches that bring benefits to their people. Acknowledging that there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution, it is of significant importance to work together to enable cooperation across UN Agencies, leveraging the UN Development System, and providing a demand-driven and coherent support to countries for the national implementation of sustainable consumption and production. This should be done taking into account all SDGs, especially SDG12 and SDG17 on "Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (targets 17.6 and 17.9)."

A priority action, identified in the Global Strategy on SCP and where the EMG members can play a direct role, is to facilitate the integration and implementation of sustainable consumption and production policies, practices and approaches in countries and regions through UN inter-agency collaboration, aimed at ensuring that existing methodologies, practices, strategies and other instruments and tools are available and ready for implementation across different geographies.

To this end it is proposed to benefit from the EMG as a forum to hold a series of dialogues reflecting on how SCP can contribute to a green economic transformation and the triple planetary crisis in the post-COVID context, especially focusing on high-impact systems and value chains *(e.g. sustainable tourism; sustainable food systems- in the follow-up of the SG summit; sustainable built environment; sustainable procurement; sustainable lifestyles; and other thematic areas of the One Planet Network´s Programmes)*

The dialogues can address the following:

1- Enhancing coordination and coherence of UN wide-offering on SCP and SDG12

In 2022, the One Planet Network has taken the leadership role to integrate the knowledge and best practices from the UN system on SCP, and has therefore set up a working group convening initially nine UN entities, including regional Commissions, and agreeing on a methodology to identify and promote tools that are fit for purpose to progress the implementation of SDG12 - ranging from *guidelines, methodologies, standards, consulting and training approaches*.[4] So far over 25 tools have been identified and will be consolidated on the One Planet Network's SDG12 Hub[5]. Moreover, besides making knowledge available in a common platform on the SDG12 Hub, the goal of the UN entities is to apply these tools in countries, thus bringing SCP further across political agendas. For that reason, this process will seek to offer more integrated and impactful UN-wide responses with joint proposals and

[3] K2200701 - UNEP-EA.5-Res.11 - ADVANCE-.pdf
[4] The UN entities working in the development of the capacity building platform on the SDG12 Hub are also Members of the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (ILO and UNITAR) and some others are currently partners of the One Planet Network (UN-Habitat, FAO, UNDP, UNOPS, UNWTO and UNESCO). UNECE and UNECLAC are likewise participants of the working group. Moreover, UNECA, UNECLAC and UNESCAP are also collaborating with the One Planet Network, the International Resource Panel, the Lifecycle Initiative and GO4SDGs in regional capacity building through the Regional Science Partners for SCP, so that leading scientific institutions in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and experts identify impactful hotspots for SCP interventions. The International Trade Centre will also collaborate to promote resource efficiency in concrete value chains.
[5] The SDG12 Hub is a one-stop-shop for governments, businesses, civil society and the public for tracking progress on the achievement of Goal 12 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

resource mobilization strategies. The goal is to join forces and scale-up implementation of SCP.

The UN system has been promoting SCP in approximately 100 countries through analysis, guidance and support for policy adoption across high impact sectors such as: (food systems, infrastructure, tourism, extractives, consumer products such as textiles, electronics). For instance UNEP with the Lifecycle Initiative has conducted analytical assessments on SCP , providing scientific evidence and identification of hotspot areas for sustainable consumption and production in over 164 countries.6 A total of 48 countries have committed to adopt the International Labour Organization (ILO)´s Guidelines for a Just Transition totowards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.[7] UNECE has standards a codes of practice relevant to SCP. For example, around 49 countries have adopted UNECE´s Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution.[8]

Other Agencies support SCP practices in the private sector and civil society. For instance, ILO has supported small and medium-sized enterprises in 20 countries through training and consulting on waste management and resource efficiency across different sectors. In addition, UNCTAD has undertaken efforts to promote Voluntary Sustainability Standards in different value chains[9], and the International Trade Centre through the Green to Compete Initiative is helping micro, small and Medium-sized enterprises in implementing resource efficiency and circular strategies with Hubs located in 7 countries.[10] In addition, UNITAR offers e-courses on SCP, while promoting civil society in choosing more sustainable consumption choices.

Furthermore, UNEP through the programmes of the One Planet Network and its Multi-Partner Trust Fund, is already developing and implementing Inter-Agency tools with UNDP, FAO, UNOPS, UN-Habitat and UNWTO. These are some examples, but with the support of the EMG, it is envisioned to gather more practices and tools and leverage technical capacity from a wider number of UN Agencies and scale-up impact through integrated approaches at the regional and national levels.

2- <u>Unlocking opportunities for strengthening cooperation, sharing and mobilizing knowledge, technology and financial resources from multiple sources</u>
 By engaging and coordinating with UN Agencies to mainstream existing resources and capacity, increasing opportunities will be unlocked for the coordination of joint actions and programmes in multiple countries. It will allow to drive change and innovation, help bridging the capacity and technological gaps and prepare for a UN-wide offering towards a long -term agile and effective SDG12 impact across regions, especially in developing countries.

3- <u>Leveraging the UN Development Reform System- Engaging Resident Coordinators and UN country Teams for stronger regional and national actions of the UN System</u>

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[6] UNEP, Hotspot Analysis Tool, SCP Hotspots Analysis (lifecycleinitiative.org)
[7] Microsoft Word - Guidelines for a just transition - copyrighted.docx (ilo.org)
[8] The Convention and its achievements | UNECE
[9] VSS | UNCTAD Approach
[10] Hubs - GreenToCompete

UN Resident Coordinators have the challenge to prioritize the Triple Planetary Crisis in relation to the day-to-day crises faced by them and their partners in their country contexts. Furthermore, there is a perceived disconnect between the mandate given by Member States, and domestic appetite for transformative nature-sensitive climate action, particularly in settings where rapid economic growth and employment are immediate priorities.[11]

To overcome this, UNEP is already working together with the Development Coordination Office (DCO) to help Resident Coordinators build expertise on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and equip the capacity of the UN Country Teams to prepare better and more coherent solutions with a bigger impact on countries challenges. Hence, Resident Coordinators will be able to identify and allocate resources more effectively and efficiently from UN Agencies, and reflect the right approaches to SCP on Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).

4- Paving the way for a UN Alliance for SCP/SDG 12

The 10YFP established and developed the Terms of Reference in 2012 for an "Inter-Agency Coordination Group", with the objectives to enhance visibility of SCP within the UN, raise awareness outside the UN, conduct joint research projects and enhance a coherent implementation.
As SCP and SDG12 are becoming more urgent and climate impacts are increasing threats across the globe, it is more important than ever to put vision into action, and work together as Agencies, if an actual transformation is expected, with a stronger credibility of the UN system.
Therefore, the nexus Dialogues will consider elements for revitalizing the former Coordination Group and establishing an **Inter-Agency Alliance for SCP / SDG12**, to contribute to the implementation to the Global Strategy on SCP and support Inter-Agency mandates. The Terms of Reference could be discussed and agreed with the agencies, with the target to operationalise the Alliance by Mid-2023.

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[11] United Nations University, The UN Development Reform System's response to the Triple Planetary Crisis.